

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed March 31, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention and rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,818,239 ("Erk"). Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claim 4 has been cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 10-19 are newly added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 and 4-19 are pending in this application.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 4-7, the applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the antecedent basis rejection asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, of claims 4-7.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Erk. As the applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter originally recited in claim 1, the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-9 as being anticipated by Erk is moot. As such, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-9 as being anticipated by Erk.

Applicant is also presenting newly added claims 10-19 by this amendment. Erk does not anticipate these claims, nor does Erk render them obvious. Allowance of newly added claims 10-19 is respectfully requested.

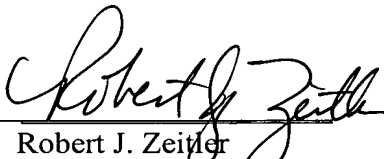
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the amended claims and in light of the above remarks, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation would facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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